

Congregational handout; outline sermon text on following pages

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Suffering to Secure Salvation Hebrews 2:10

February 23, 2014

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^A Genesis 3:16-19

^B Romans 11:33-36, Hebrews 12:2

^C John 6:35-47

^D Luke 2:46-52, Hebrews 4:15, John 19:30

^E Isaiah 53:3-6, 1 Peter 1:18-20, Revelation 13:8

—{1}. **Hebrews 2:10**..... **Suffering to Secure Salvation**

A. Introduction

1. Suffering Is a Problem

a. The picturesque Swiss village was full of tourists at its many hotels and restaurants. Suddenly the young woman, barely out of her teens, was taken ill with stomach pain. In 24 hours she was dead of a rare infection.

(A) Her parents had never had much interest in faith. Christmas, Easter, a wedding or funeral would bring them to church. Her death made them very bitter. "We can't believe in God," they said. "No good God could ever permit this to happen."

(B) Comforters offered the usual bland truisms – you have heard them; perhaps even spoken them:

(1) "At least she went quickly. It could have been cancer."

(2) "A hundred years ago one child in four died before age 5."

(3) "At least you still have another child."

(C) The village church organist was more plain-spoken: "They ought to have thought of God sooner."
—{2}.

b. Christians know – or should know – why there is suffering

(A) it is the direct outcome of sin

(1) the result of disobedience by the first Adam in Eden

(2) it immediately brought spiritual death – separation from God

(3) it ultimately brought physical suffering and death

(4) it made all of life difficult – '16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "... Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.'" (Genesis 3:16-19)

(B) but knowing this reason doesn't make it any easier

(C) for pain makes us doubt that God really does care for me ...

2. But God Does Care

a. yes, it is easy for us to sing

God sees the little sparrow fall,
It meets His tender view,
If God so loves the little birds,
I know He loves me too ... ^{3}.

b. or

Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Saviour cares. ^{4}.

c. but deep down the thought persists in our minds that God is God and He is so great, that He doesn't have pain, He can't know our pain

d. even thinking of Christ and His suffering, the same idea creeps into our minds: 'well He was God, with supernatural strength to overcome the effects of pain; He didn't really feel it'.

e. but our text today, is introduced with this truth: the last Adam – Jesus – had to suffer; yes, He was really man, and He really suffered

B. It Was Appropriate to God that Jesus Suffered 2:10

1. Understanding This Truth

a. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

b. Who is the 'Him' in this verse? What was that was 'fitting for Him'?

c. well first of all, this 'Him' is personally described by two phrases: 'for whom are all things, and through whom are all things'

(A) these words can only describe Deity

(B) "33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! ... 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:33-36)

(C) but which Person? God the Father, or, God the Son?

- d. let us read on; what is this 'Him' doing
 - (A) He is 'bringing many sons to glory'
 - (B) the word 'sons' immediately suggests it is God the Father
- e. but let us make sure: what is He doing while bringing them to glory?
 - (A) He is perfecting the 'author of their salvation'
 - (B) and who is that Author?
 - (C) Author means the one who is the first or chief leader or captain, fore-runner, the pioneer or originator of some movement, and, if there is any doubt as to whom it refers, the writer makes it clear later in this book: "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, ..." (Hebrews 12:2) – there is no doubt; the Author, the one who is being perfected is Jesus – God the Son, yes, but moreover, the Son of Man
- f. so it is indeed God the Father for whom this was fitting or suitable
- g. finally, what was so suitable to God the Father?
 - (A) that 'through sufferings' He should make Jesus perfect
 - (B) in short, it was appropriate to God that Jesus suffered
- h. now, I have taken some time just on the grammar of this verse to ensure that we all understand just what it is saying, the truth it states
- i. so let us start from the inside of this verse to apply this truth

2. Bringing Sons to Glory

- a. this, as the rest of the verse states, is the essence of salvation
- b. and we learn from it, that this is a work of God the Father
 - (A) Jesus said: "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." (John 6:37) and "44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'and they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me." (John 6:44-45)
 - (B) mankind's salvation is according to the Father's plan and purpose
- c. to where does this salvation bring a person? ... to glory

- (A) to heaven, yes, but even now a change in state has occurred
- (B) a person receives the blessing of sonship; of access to God
- d. but from where and what?
 - (A) if there is a place and state of glory – where man is brought into the presence of God, who alone is glorious
 - (B) what is the alternative?
 - (C) this: that there is a place and state of non-glory – where man is separated from the presence of God – called hell and other names
 - (D) a place of terrible, unspeakable suffering – that is from where.

3. Suitable for the Father

- a. verse 10 begins, 'for it was fitting for Him' or 'for it became him'
- b. the meaning of this phrase is that the action that follows stands out in such a fashion as to be in agreement with Him; it is appropriate, apt, becoming, and suitable to whom He is – God the Father
- c. why is it suitable?
- d. because it is in complete agreement with His nature, His character
- e. God, we learn in the Scriptures, has many attributes and perfections
- f. the salvation of a person from hell is in agreement with many of these – it is the ultimate evidence of His goodness, His kindness, His mercy, His love, His grace, His patience and other attributes
- g. but, the Scriptures reveal to us that, as well as all these, God is Holy, He is Righteous, He cannot tolerate sin, He is pure, and His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness – and sinful man is unrighteous
- h. how is that part of God's nature in keeping, suitable to salvation, to the bringing of many sons into glory?
- i. How could He save me, a rebel, a sinner?
- j. it is because that
 - (A) the satisfaction of my debt as a sinner has been paid by Jesus
 - (B) the penalty due to me for my sin and rebellion was placed on Him
 - (C) He gained the victory for me over the slavery I was under to sin
 - (D) and for this to happen, it was necessary that He should suffer

4. Making Jesus Perfect?

- a. how strange those words seem to us! ... yet, there they are
- b. 'to make the captain of their salvation perfect' (AV, NKJV)
- c. but was Jesus not perfect? – He was after all the Son of God
- d. now, let us be careful how we say this,
 - (A) first, in Jesus we have but one Person and one Nature
 - (B) you cannot say, well in this He was God, but here He was man
 - (C) however, the incarnation is a mystery beyond comprehension
 - (D) He had to share with mankind the processes of development.
 - (E) He did not come to earth as a grown man, but as a baby.
 - (F) at 12, in the temple, he sat listening to the teachers and asking them questions (Luke 2:46)
 - (G) then He went home and continued in subjection to His parents so that "... Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." (Luke 2:52)
 - (H) He did not enter into His earthly ministry immediately, but after 30 years, and the preceding preparation by the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the temptation in the wilderness
 - (I) His ministry was not miraculously completed in an instant, but over about 3½ years: time spent patiently training His disciples.
 - (J) Each step of life was a step toward the completion of His ministry; when that was perfected, then He as the Son of Man was perfected – made complete by completing His work.
- e. So, His being made perfect,
 - (A) was not because he was in some way flawed or sinful,
 - (B) as Hebrews later says, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)
 - (C) was that the purpose of the incarnation, His mandate, still lay ahead, and remained incomplete and imperfect until that moment when on the cross, '... He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.' (John 19:30)
 - (D) for then was made complete, perfect His ...

5. Suffering of Salvation's Author

- a. it now becomes clearer what the nature of Jesus' suffering was
- b. Jesus suffered the hell that we deserved, that we should know heaven
- c. Isaiah 53 explained it many centuries before His birth:
 - (A) 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. (Isaiah 53:3-6)
 - (B) it was for my sin and yours he suffered, bled and died
- d. but the sufferings of Jesus, the Author of our salvation, are not just encapsulated in those hours he spent on the cross
- e. think of the times he wept
 - (A) at the grave of Lazarus
 - (B) over the city of Jerusalem as He saw their rejecting Him
 - (C) at the unbelief of many
 - (D) in the face of the hardness of hearts of the religious rulers
- f. but was that all? ... oh no!
 - (A) for man cannot be saved by any other way
 - (B) if a person is to be saved, no matter where he or she may seek, all the saving roads ultimately must lead to Calvary
 - (C) in Peter, concerning our salvation we read this (the NIV translates this so clearly): "18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake." (1 Peter 1:18-20 NIV)
 - (D) and Revelation 13:8 (NIV) describes Him as 'slain from the creation of the world'

(E) when did God the Son begin to suffer? – before creation

C. Conclusion

1. Jesus Really Cares!

- a. do you need any further proof?
- b. before the world began, the Son of God planned to come to suffer for you and me, that we might have life
- c. the God who did this does not lightly allow trials and sufferings to come our way unless they lead to perfecting us as He did Jesus

2. How Should We Respond?

- a. let us not, therefore, lightly complain to God on account of every and any difficulty which we may encounter, but ask for His grace
- b. nor let anyone reject this salvation from our sin, which its Author purchased at such a price of suffering on our behalf

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ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version of 1769
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Some of the commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

Barnes	- <i>Notes on the New Testament, et alia</i> , by Rev Albert Barnes, Gall & Inglis, Edinburgh
BM	- <i>Biblical Museum</i> , Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870
EBC	- <i>The Expositor's Bible Commentary</i> , © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan <i>Hebrews</i> , by Leon Morris
EGT	- <i>The Expositor's Greek Testament</i> , Hodder & Stoughton <i>Hebrews</i> , by Marcus Dods
Gill	- <i>Exposition of the Old Testament, Exposition of the New Testament</i> , by John Gill, D.D.
Kerux	- The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, www.holwick.com .
NICNT	- <i>The New International Commentary on the New Testament</i> <i>The Epistle to the Hebrew</i> , by F. F. Bruce
RWP	- <i>Robertson's Word Pictures of the New Testament</i> , by Dr. A. T. Robertson
TYN	- <i>The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries</i> <i>Hebrews</i> , by Donald Guthrie

2. 'The Problem of Evil,' by Dr Harold O. J. Brown in Moody Magazine online, http://www.moodymagazine.com/articles.php?action=view_article&id=321, Kerux illustration # 25060
3. Maria Straub, 1874
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